

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1210

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, BTRA, EEWT, UR, US
SUBJECT: ROLE OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL IN VISIT OF SECRETARY
KREPS AND SESSION OF JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION IN MOSCOW

1. RICHARD O'BRIEN, MOSCOW-BASED SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF US-
USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL (TEC), CALLED ON E/C COUNSELOR
JANUARY 25 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF TEC IN
VISIT OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE KREPS AND POSSIBLE MEETING OF TEC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEXT (MOSCOW) SESSION OF
JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION (JCC).

2. O'BRIEN RELATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY DEPUTY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE SUHKOV THAT MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE
PATOLICHEV IS AGREEABLE TO A VISIT BY SECRETARY KREPS IN APRIL,
WITH DATES STILL TO BE ESTABLISHED (SOVIETS, CHARACTERISTICALLY,
HAVE SAID NOTHING AS YET TO THE EMBASSY ABOUT THIS SUBJECT).
O'BRIEN SAID THAT TEC WOULD LIKE TO INFORM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
TRADE OF ITS INTEREST IN HOSTING A RECEPTION, LUNCHEON OR DINNER
FOR SECRETARY KREPS DURING HER VISIT HERE. HE WONDERED IF
THERE WAS ANY OBJECTION TO THIS FROM THE SIDE OF THE USG.
COUNSELOR SAID THAT HE PERCEIVED NO OBJECTION, ASSUMING
THAT THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE IN MOSCOW WOULD HAVE REQUISITE
FREE TIME, BUT WOULD REPORT THIS INFORMATION TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. (NOTE: HAROLD SCOTT IN NEW YORK
IS, OF COURSE, INFORMED OF THIS INTEREST AND MIGHT BE
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CONTACTING USDOC DIRECTLY.)

3. WITH REFERENCE TO JCC SESSION, WHICH O'BRIEN ASSUMED
WOULD TAKE PLACE IN JUNE, HE RAISED POSSIBILITY OF HAVING
A MEETING OF THE TEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TIMED IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THIS SESSION, AS TOOK PLACE IN WASHINGTON
LAST JUNE. O'BRIEN SAID THAT THERE WAS SOME DISAGREEMENT

AMONG TECMEMBERS ON THIS QUESTION, WITH HAROLD SCOTT
OPPOSED AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHARMAN DOLAND KENDALL
NEUTRAL (ACCORDING TO O'BRIEN). ASKED WHO WAS IN FAVOR, HE
SAID THAT MOST OF THE DIRECTORS WHO ARE ON THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE MEETING, AS WOULD THE
SOVIETS (AND O'BRIEN, WE ASSUME) ON THE GROUNDS THAT
ENCOURAGEMENT OF MORE CONTACT IS ONE OF THE PRIME PURPOSES
OF THE TEC. COUNSELOR SAID HE WAS AWARE OF NO USG OBJECTION
TO SUCH A TEC SESSION HERE AT TIME OF JCC, WHENEVER THAT
MIGHT BE, BUT PROMISED TO INFORM O'BRIEF OF ANY COMMENT
WHICH INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY HAVE.

4. O'BRIEN CONFIDED THAT SEARCH FOR NEW US CHAIRMAN OF
TEC IS ONE, BUT THAT DAVID ROCKEFELLER - AS CHAIRMAN OF
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - IS KEEPING HIS OWN COUNSEL. O'BRIEN
HAS HEARD THE NAMES OF SCOTT (ALLIS CHALMERS), HEWITT (DEERE)
AND CLAUSEN (BANK OF AMERICA) MENTIONED, BUT SAID
THERE COULD BE OTHERS UNDER CONSIDERATION. HE SAID THAT
DONALD KENDALL IS DISINCLINED TO TAKE BACK THE FUNCTION ON A
CARETAKER BASIS. (TEC BY-LAWS PROVIDE THAT US CHAIRMAN MUST BE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF LARGE AMERICAN CORPORATION).

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THERE IS ANY
OBJECTION TO TEC HOSTING A RECEPTION, LUNCHEON OR DINNER
DURING VISIT OF SECRETARY KREPS. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE
HEARING CURRENT THINKING OF CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES
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ABOUT TIMING OF JCC SESSION AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY FEELING
ABOUT A TEC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN MOSCOW TIMED TO
COINCIDE WITH IT.
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